



**DECISION MEMO**  
**MOUNT SNOW EPIC MIX PROJECT**  
**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MANCHESTER RANGER DISTRICT**  
**WEST DOVER, WINDHAM COUNTY, VERMONT**

## **BACKGROUND**

See NEPA Small Project Proposal Section 1.

## **DECISION**

I have decided to authorize Mount Snow's Epic Mix project, which will improve infrastructure, providing fiber optic and power to areas of the mountain that previously had none. This will provide Mount Snow with the opportunity to install ski gantries to use Vail's interactive skiing apps, and install cameras at loading areas, provide power to fan guns, and offer options for heat sources for the lower terminals. See NEPA Small Project Proposal Section 1, items 5 and 6, and attached map.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(22) *Construction, reconstruction, decommissioning, or disposal of buildings, infrastructure, or improvements at an existing recreation site, including infrastructure or improvements that are adjacent or connected to an existing recreation site and provide access or utilities for that site*. See NEPA Small Project Proposal Section 1, item 9.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist. This decision includes the implementation of required mitigation measures. See NEPA Small Project Resource Specialist Review Section 2, and mitigation measures appendix.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Green Mountain National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions dated April 2020 and updated periodically during the analysis. One inquiry by the State of Vermont, Fish and Wildlife was received and clarification was provided. The Town of Dover was contacted to ensure there were no concerns with the possibility of blasting being used, and they did not have any concerns. No comments were received from the public.

## **FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

The National Forest Management Act requires development of long-range land and resource management plans, and that all site-specific project activities to be consistent with direction in the plans. This decision is consistent with the 2006 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The project was designed in conformance with Forest



Plan direction including goals, objectives, desired conditions, and forest-wide and management area standards and guidelines relevant to project activities. See NEPA Small Project Proposal Section 1, items 7 and 8.

This decision also complies with all other applicable laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to administrative review, or objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Implementation of this project will commence during the drier months of the summer of 2021, after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Jeff Hammell, Eastern Region Winter Sports Team, Permit Administrator, at Green Mountain National Forest, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701; (802)747-6798 or [jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov).

**MARTINA BARNES** Digitally signed by MARTINA BARNES  
Date: 2021.06.22 16:56:02 -04'00'

Martina Barnes  
District Ranger

Date

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## MITIGATION MEASURES

### Threatened and Endangered Wildlife

- Do not cut trees greater than 4 inches diameter at breast height will not be cut between 15 April – 31 October to avoid potential direct impacts to northern long-eared bat. A certified biologist will survey for potential bat roost trees.

### Botany

- Equipment or materials will not be staged where field milkwort occurs in the trail (A map will be provided).

### Soils:

- No soil-disturbing activity will occur within 90 feet of the top of Cold Brook's bank.
- Sites for servicing and refueling construction equipment must be located at least 90 feet away from the top of the stream bank and approved by a Forest Officer.
- No more than 500 linear feet of trench should be open at one time. This reduces erosion and sedimentation risks.
- Topsoil will be stockpiled separately from subsoil when excavating the trench and place all subsoil material into the trench first when backfilling, followed by topsoil. This maintains topsoil fertility and seed source.
- An erosion prevention and sedimentation control plan will be provided to the Forest Service for review to determine whether additional site-specific mitigations are needed to minimize negative effects to soil resources for this project.

### NNIP:

- To prevent introduction of NNIP, any wheeled or tracked equipment used to access the site and implement the work will be clean (free of plant debris or mud that may contain plant debris) prior to accessing the site. Unless work is occurring in an infestation-free site, equipment must also be cleaned prior to moving to other sites on the mountain. Cleaning may be accomplished by portable power washer or stiff broom, or whatever means feasible. The goal is to avoid transporting plant debris or the mud that may contain it from one area to another. It is also requested that implementers view one of the videos at the following website, so they understand the nature of what is being asked of them, and why: <http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/prevention/playing smart.shtml>. A "Play, Clean, Go" video may also be viewed: <https://vimeo.com/174395330>.